

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 L-03 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-07

FCC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-05 USIA-06 COME-00 BIB-01

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /078 W

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R 021302Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1883

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, GW, WB, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: ITU LISTINGS FOR BERLIN

REF: (A) STATE 164300 (B) USBERLIN 1316

(C) BONN 11006 (D) GENEVA 5041

BEGIN SUMMARY: UK AND FRANCE HAVE APPROVED THE
RECOMMENDATION OF THE ALLIED BON GROUP REPS THAT THE
FRG BE AUTHORIZED TO REQUEST CHANGES IN THE WEST BERLIN
LISTINGS IN THE INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE LIST,
PARALLEL TO THOSE BEING REQUESTED BY THE GDR FOR EAST
BERLIN. IN TRIPARTITE DISCUSSION, THE UK AND FRENCH
REPS WERE STRONGLY OF THE OPINION THAT MAINTAINING THE
STATUS QUO FOR WEST BERLIN LISTINGS WOULD BE POLITICALLY
UNSATISFACTORY, AND REPS WERE UNABLE TO DEVELOP
SATISFACTORY ALTERNATIVES AS REQUESTED BY DEPARTMENT.
EMBASSY REQUESTS FURTHER REVIEW OF THE PROBLEM BY THE
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DEPARTMENT IN THE LIGHT OF THE TRIPARTITE DISCUSSIONS.

END SUMMARY

1. AT TRIPARTITE DISCUSSION JULY 15, BRITISH AND FRENCH BONN GROUP REPS REPORTED INSTRUCTIONS APPROVING BOTH THE PROPOSED DISCLAIMER AND THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE FRG BE ASKED TO REQUEST EQUAL TREATMENT FOR WEST BERLIN (REF. C). US REP REPORTED THAT DEPARTMENT HAD APPROVED TEXT OF THE DISCLAIMER BUT THOUGHT THE BONN GROUP SHOULD SEEK SOME ALTERNATIVE TO "BERLIN, FRG" (REF. A).

2. NEITHER BRITISH NOR FRENCH REP WAS ABLE TO AGREE WITH THE SUGGESTION. LENGTHY DISCUSSION CONCENTRATED PRIMARILY ON THE FORTHCOMING 24TH EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE LIST (INTERNATIONALES TST-VERZEICHNIS), WHICH AS NOTED REF D APPEARS TO BE THE ONLY ITU PUBLICATION POSING IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS. FRECH REP (BOISSIEU) POINTED OUT THAT NONE OF THE ALLIES HAS EVER GIVEN A STATUS VALUE TO THE COUNTRY LISTINGS IN THIS PUBLICATION, AS THE COLUMN (IN THE CURRENT 23RD EDITION) GIVING NAMES OF COUNTRIES INCLUDES SUCH LOCALES AS REUNION, ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON, AND PUERTO RICO. IN RESPONSE TO US ARGUMENT THAT THE LIKELIHOOD OF EVOKING A SOVIET PROTEST WOULD BE LESS IF WE SIMPLY ADHERED TO THE STATUS QUO FOR WEST BERLIN LISTINGS, BOTH BOISSIEU AND THE UK REP (CROMARTIE) ARGUED THAT THE STATUS QUO WOULD NO LONGER BE SATISFACTORY ONCE THE ITU ACCEDED TO THE GDR DEMAND THAT ALL EAST BERLIN LISTINGS BE CHANGED FROM "ALLEMAGNE-BERLIN EST" TO "RDA-BERLIN". CROMARTIE OBSERVED THAT OUR HIGHEST-PRIORITY OBJECTIVES WERE TO PRESERVE OUR LEGAL POSITION AND TO AVOID A NEW DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK-TYPE ROUND OF PROTESTS. WHILE THE US POSITION WOULD SERVE BOTH THOSE ENDS, IT WOULD ALSO MEAN THAT WE WOULD BE DEMONSTRATING WEAKNESS AND LOSING A SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL POINT.

3. ALL REPS AGREED ON THE NECESSITY FOR PRESENTING A UNITED FRONT TO THE FRG AND WERE AGREED ON THE FIRST TWO ELEMENTS OF THE REPLY WHICH SHOULD BE MADE IN RESPONSE TO THE QUERY IN GENEVA FROM THE ITU SYG (REF D):
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(1) WHILE WE DO NOT LIKE THE GDR PROPOSAL, WE REALIZE THAT THE ITU PROBABLY HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO COMPLY WITH IT; AND (2) IF THE EAST BERLIN LISTINGS ARE CHANGED, WE WOULD WISH THE ITU TO INCLUDE A DISCLAIMER. AS FOR THE THIRD ELEMENT OF THE REPLY -- WHETHER TO LEAVE WEST BERLIN LISTINGS ALONE OR SEEK EQUAL TREATMENT -- US REP AGREED TO REPORT VIEWS OF PARIS AND LONDON AND INQUIRE WHETHER DEPARTMENT WILLING TO RECONSIDER ITS

POSITION (FAILING WHICH, THE ANSWER MUST OF COURSE BE THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT THE WEST BERLIN ENTRIES).

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY FEARS THAT USBER SUGGESTION (PARA 2, REF B), WHICH DEPARTMENT ENDORSED IN REF A, WAS BASED ON A MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE OF THE ITU PUBLICATION WE ARE DEALING WITH. SOME ITU

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 12504

PUBLICATIONS ARE SUBDIVIDED BY COUNTRIES, AND FOR THESE THE USBER SUGGESTION IS APT, THOUGHT NOT CURRENTLY AT ISSUE. THE "INTERNATIONAL FREQUENCY LIST", FOR EXAMPLE, HAS A SECTION FOR "D - GERMANY (FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF)" WHICH IDENTIFIES FREQUENCIES IN WEST BERLIN SIMPLY AS "BERLIN - D", AND A SECTION FOR "DDR - GERMAN

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC", WHICH LISTS FREQUENCIES IN EAST BERLIN AS "BERLIN - DDR". THIS IS NOT THE CASE, HOWEVER, WITH THE INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE LIST, WHICH IS AN ALPHABETICAL LISTING, BY CITIES, OF ALL TELEGRAPH OFFICES IN THE WORLD. AT PRESENT, THE "COUNTRY" COLUMN ALLOWS FOR THREE GERMANIES -- "ALLEMAGNE", "RDA", AND "RFA". OF THE OVER ONE HUNDRED BERLIN LISTINGS, 23 ARE IN THE US, THREE ARE IN LATIN AMERICA, AND THE REST ARE SHOWN AS BEING IN "ALLEMAGNE" WITH A FURTHER INDICATION OF WHETHER THEY

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ARE IN BERLIN OUEST OR BERLIN EST. BERLIN 33, FOR EXAMPLE, IS IDENTIFIED AS ALLEMAGNE-BERLIN OUEST, WHILE BERLIN 35 IS SHOWN AS ALLEMAGNE-BERLIN EST.

5. ONCE THE ITU ACCEPTS THE GDR REQUEST, EAST BERLIN STATIONS IN THE NEXT EDITION WILL SIMPLY BE LISTED AS RDA-BERLIN. MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO FOR OUR SIDE WOULD MEAN THAT, HENCEFORTH, ONLY THE WEST BERLIN ADDRESSES WOULD BE IDENTIFIED AS BEING IN "ALLEMAGNE".

6. WHILE ADHERING TO REF A INSTRUCTIONS IN TRIPARTITE GROUP, EMBASSY AGREES WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH THAT SUCH A RESULT IS POLITICALLY UNDESIRABLE. TO ACQUIESCE IN THE CHANGES WITHOUT ASKING FOR COMPARABLE CHANGES FOR WEST BERLIN WOULD MEAN GIVING IN TO ONE MORE SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN EFFORT TO SHOW THAT "BERLIN" WAS PART OF THE GDR AND THAT ONLY WEST BERLIN'S STATUS REMAINED NEBULOUS. CHANGING THE WEST BERLIN LISTINGS COULD, OF COURSE, PROVOKE A SOVIET PROTEST (EVEN THOUGH THE FACT THAT MANY ITU LISTING ALREADY SHOW BERLIN UNDER FRG HEADINGS HAS NOT UP UNTIL NOW CREATED PROBLEMS), BUT THIS SHOULD NOT BE A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT PROTEST TO ANSWER.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S REVIEWING THE PROBLEM ONCE MORE IN THE LIGHT OF THE TRIPARTITE DISCUSSION AND THE ABOVE FULLER EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PUBLICATION IN QUESTION, WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING WHETHER US MIGHT GO ALONG WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH PREFERENCE FOR AUTHORIZING THE FRG TO REQUEST CHANGES IN WEST BERLIN LISTINGS.

HILLENBRAND

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